

Claytonia and I wondered whether this find of Mrs. Elbert's was unique in the genus. A quick perusal of the literature shows that orange-yellow-flowered Claytonias are known. Nelson¹ described *C. aurea* [later² naming it *C. flava*, because *C. aurea* turned out to be a homonym] from Henry's Lake, Idaho, and Greene³ named *Claytonia chrysantha* from Mount Baker in the state of Washington. I have not seen specimens of *C. flava* but isotypes of *C. chrysantha* do not show the yellow color attributed to it by Greene. Indeed, St. John⁴ points this out and further states that there are no real differences between *C. chrysantha* and *C. lanceolata* Pursh. Nomenclaturally, this yellow-flowered plant has been regarded as a species, subspecies⁵ and form.⁴ However, not only are there known orange-yellow-flowered types in western North America but apparently *C. virginica* turns up with flowers of this color from time to time. In Barton⁶, Ball reported Spring Beauties with orange-colored flowers in abundance in a meadow near Quakertown, Pennsylvania. It would be interesting to know more about the geographical range of this color form.—R. C. ROLLINS.

BUCHLOË DACTYLOIDES IN ILLINOIS—Buffalo grass, one of the most famous and valuable native North American forage grasses, was an important constituent of the shortgrass prairies of the Great Plains over which vast numbers of bison formerly grazed. Its principal area of distribution extends from western Minnesota into western Canada and central Montana, and southward through eastern Colorado to Arizona, extending into western Louisiana, and northward to northwestern Iowa. It has recently been found in Peoria County, Illinois.

This plant is a stoloniferous perennial grass growing in characteristic colonies often forming a continuous turf of unusual toughness, the short stems rising to a height of a few inches and bearing curly leaves. In the fall it becomes dry and dull grayish green; in both the green and dry condition it is nutritious to

¹ Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 27: 260. 1900.

² Univ. Wyo. Pub. Bot. 1: 142. 1926.

³ Leaflet West. Bot. 2: 45. 1910.

⁴ Res. Stud. State Coll. Wash. 1: 97. 1929.

⁵ Ferris in Abrams, Ill. Fl. Pac. States 2: 122. 1944.

⁶ Barton 7: 22. 1915. I am indebted to Dr. John M. Fogg for telling me of this reference.

grazing animals. The thick turf was cut into blocks to build the walls of the "sod houses" of early settlers on the western prairies.

The phytogeographical significance of the discovery of *Buchloë dactyloides* growing spontaneously in Illinois is that it establishes the fact that this grass ranged at least as far eastward as west-central Illinois, where it is clearly a relict from early post-Pleistocene times. Its discovery here by Dr. Chase in 1956 certainly does not represent a recent extension of range. Although it is now known to occur in Illinois in only a single locality where it occupies a small area in a relatively undisturbed part of a cemetery, it is probable that this colony was only one among several or many others that persisted in Illinois possibly down to the nineteenth century. The fact is nevertheless rather remarkable that during one hundred and fifty years of intermittent but extensive botanical collection and exploration in Illinois, this plant has remained undetected until now. Its recent discovery shows again how nearly impossible it is to discover all the species of a region even after long study. In this particular instance this grass had been completely overlooked, even by the several discriminating resident students of the flora of central Illinois, including, among others, Frederick Brendel, the distinguished author of *Flora Peoriana*, who studied the botany of the Peoria district from 1852 to 1912, and Francis Eugene McDonald, who collected extensively in the same area from about 1880 to 1920. It remained for the veteran Illinois botanist, Dr. V. H. Chase, to discover this species in Illinois at a station about 400 miles east of its nearest known occurrence in northwestern Iowa.

The collection data of *Buchloë dactyloides* in Illinois are as follows: in Springdale cemetery, Peoria, Peoria Co., August 8, 1956, *V. H. Chase 14304*, apparently a relic on soil never in cultivation. Specimens have been deposited in the herbaria of the Smithsonian Institution and the University of Illinois.—G. NEVILLE JONES, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS.

RORIPPA SESSILIFLORA IN ESSEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.—When checking over the Cruciferae in the herbarium of the Peabody Museum of Salem I found a sheet of an unfamiliar species collected in Salem by the Rev. John Lewis Russell in